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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ENERGY & POWER DEPARTMENT KAZI ROAD, GANGTOK- 737101.

No. 108/GOS/ E & P/ 2009/2707

Date: 15.11.2014

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PLAN

NOTIFICATION

In compliance with section 3.4 of the Central Govt. "Rural Electricity Policy" and under the provision contained in section 4 and 5 of the Electricity Act. 2003, the Government of Sikkim hereby notifies the Rural Electrification Plan for the State to achieve the national goal for providing access to electricity for all rural households as per the provision under section-2 of National Electricity Policy.

This Plan will come in to force from the date of its notification.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Electricity Act, 2003 which came into force on 10th June 2003 has accorded renewed priority to rural electrification and provision of electricity services in order provides access to electricity to all. Keeping this view, the state has identified rural electrification as major thrust area.
- 1.2 Rural Electrification is a vital program for socio-economic development of rural areas. National goal of rural electrification is to provide access to electricity to all rural households. This will improve standard of living of rural populace apart from all around development.

The definition of an electrified village has been specified under the Ministry of Power's O.M. No. 42/1/2001-D(RE) dated 5th February 2004 as given below:

- "A village would be classified as electrified based on a Certificate issued by the Gram Panchayat, certifying that –
- Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution Lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as a minimum of one dalit basti/hamlet where it exists;
- b) Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centers, etc.; and
- c) The number of households electrified is at least 10% of the total number of households in the village."

In accordance with the aforesaid definition mentioned above, the present status of rural electrification in Sikkim is as given in Table 1 to 2 (Annexure-I).

2.0 Objectives

The National Rural Electrification Policy mandates the State Government to prepare and notify a Rural Electrification Plan in accordance with the Rural Electrification Policy 2006.

This Rural Electrification Plan aims at:-

- Providing access to Electricity for all rural households.
- Providing quality and reliable power supply at reasonable rates.

3.0 Approaches to Rural Electrification

3.1 For villages, intensive and robust distribution network having distribution voltage of 11000 Volts and 440 Volts shall be developed and necessary infrastructure of distribution network such as substations, distribution transformers, L.T lines etc., shall be provided. The development of infrastructure is to be ensured progressively through implementation of the schemes by the Energy & Power Development.

Each of the electrified villages included in the plan shall include:-

- For this purpose, the habitations of the census village will be treated as a unit.
- At least one Power Substation should be provided in each block of various districts.
- The distribution network to cover the public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community Centres. Etc.
- The distribution network (11 KV, DSS & L.T network) will run through the length & breadth of the villages so that service connection can be given on demand.
- Three Phase network will be provided to meet the requirement of rural industries.
- Depending upon availability of fund for the purpose, districts and cluster of un-electrified/ de-electrified and partially electrified villages will be chosen for full scale electrification. The un-electrified / de-electrified habitations of the census village will be electrified in full and partial electrification in villages done earlier will also be provided with full scale electrification.

3.2 Stand Alone System for Rural Areas

The State Government shall encourage the development of local stand alone system in the area where Grid connectivity is not feasible or cost effective based on generation of electricity from the mini hydro, solar photovoltaic, etc. The State Government shall facilitate such projects by giving quick clearance through administrative measures such as single window clearance with easy access for giving necessary approval in a time bound manner to fully utilize the potential of the local resources. This will cover those areas otherwise not being electrified from grid power.

- 3.3 Non-conventional sources of energy would be utilized even where grid connectivity exists provided it is found to be cost effective.
- 3.4 Electrification (service connection) of un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households would be financed with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of KutirJyoti & RGGVY program. Households above poverty line would avail their service connection facility as per prescribed norms and connection charges and no subsidy would be available for the purpose.

- 3.5 The standing District level monitoring committee shall monitor the progress on rural electrification and achievement of the various objectives of the plan in the districts.
- 3.6 The State will make all possible efforts to provide daily supply of at least 6 hours of electricity in the rural areas.
- 3.7 The State will make required provision in the budget for fulfilling the subsidy requirement against supply of power to the subsidised consumers in the State, in consonance with section 65 of the Electricity Act – 2003.
- 3.8 In order to maximize benefits from the limited resources available, it is essential that energy efficiency is promoted in the rural areas. Therefore, State will take up measures for arousing awareness of electricity related issues including generation, distribution, energy conservation and energy efficiency and energy water nexus among elected Panchayat representatives.
- 3.9 The use of Energy efficient lamps will be encouraged for lighting purposes. The State would evolve programs for encouraging use of economically viable energy efficient home appliances/equipments within the framework of the Energy Conservation Act- 2001.
- 3.10 Special efforts for widespread use of information technology would be made for enhancing efficiency and reducing the cost.
- 3.11 The communities would be encouraged by substantive campaigning to take up local electricity distribution.

4.0 Development of Infrastructure to meet the increased demand of Power

- 4.1 The direct and indirect increase in demand for electricity as a result of rural electrification and progressive growth in power demand will necessitate augmentation of Generation, Transmission and Sub-transmission infrastructure.
- 4.2 The State shall endeavour to increase the installed capacity to meet the increased demand through establishment of a number of power plants in the State sector and Share from the central sector projects. Suitable provision shall be kept in the state budget for this purpose. For the transmission and distribution of power from the generating stations to the load centres, the State shall endeavour for erection of 220 KV, 132 KV, 66 KV transmission lines and substations.
- 4.3 Necessary strengthening of Sub Transmission System will be done to cater to the additional load due to electrification of villages including requirement of electricity for rural industries.
- 4.4 The State Government will avail the funding under various schemes of the Central Government for this purpose. For the activities, which cannot be covered under Central Schemes, the State will fund the same through budgetary support or from loans from the financial institutions.

5.0 Management of Local Distribution in Rural Areas

- 5.1 Deployment of franchisee for management of local distribution in rural areas will be taken up in order to ensure revenue sustainability and improved services to the consumers. Franchisees for the management of rural distribution could be Panchyati Raj Institution, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Co-operative Societies or individual entrepreneurs.
- 5.2 A Franchisees shall run the entire business of purchase from the Utility and selling them to the consumers in his demarcated area. Such Franchisees should in addition to purchasing; selling and collection of energy bill shall also be responsible for operation and maintenance of the local distribution system within the area of coverage, as provided in the terms & conditions.

5.3 A capacity building program of Panchayat Institutions, franchisees and consumer associations will be taken up in association with REC / Govt. of India.

6.0 Retail Tariff

The State will evolve an affordable tariff structure for indentified categories of the consumers in association with the regulator, particularly for BPL households. The gap between the tariff so determined by the regulator and the affordable tariff for identified categories of the consumers will be bridged through appropriate provision in the State budget in consonance with the provisions under section 65 of the Electricity Act -2003.

7.0 Monitoring of Rural Electrification

The State Level Committee is entrusted to look after and monitor the following matters:-

- Co-ordinate and Review execution of electrification in each district.
- b) Review the quality of Power Supply and Consumer satisfaction.
- c) Promote Energy Efficiency and Conservation.
- Look into the issues of Rural Electrification at State level as well as Implementation of RGGVY schemes in the State.

8.0 Amendment of Plan

Based on the inputs / feedbacks and requirements, the Government will periodically review the progress and accordingly suitable amendments will be made in the Plan, as and when required.

9.0 Legal provision

Section 6 of the Electricity Act – 2003 empowers the State to endeavour to supply electricity to all areas including villages and habitations (hamlets). Rural Electrification Policy notified by the Ministry of Power, Government of India provides for notification of Rural Electrification Plan by all the State Governments.

By Order and in the name of the Governor.

(P.B. Subba)
P.C.E cum Secretary
Energy & Power Department
Government of Sikkim

ANNEXURE -I

<u>Table 1 & 2</u>: Status of Village Electrification / Habitations, Households & B.P.L. Households as per survey of 2013 (September) and based on data of Census 2011 & DDWS 2012-13:

DISTRICT	EAST	WEST	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL
Table 1:					
Total nos. of inhabited Villages as per Census 2011	114	119	52	140	425
Total nos. of Electrified Villages as on 2013	114	119	51	140	424
Total nos. of un electrified villages as on 2013 based on Census 2011	0	0	1	0	01
Total nos. of Habitations as on 2013 based on field survey and DDWS 2012-13	696	996	301	588	2581
Total nos. of fully electrified habitations as on 2013	515	574	93	307	1489
Total nos. of Partially / un-electrified habitations as on 2013- To be electrified	181	422	208	281	1092
Total nos. of Rural Households as per Census 2011	32876	26890	7819	25703	93288
Total nos. of electrified households as on 2012	30759	20646	6007	21651	79063
Total nos. of un-electrified households as on 2013 – To be electrified	2117	6244	1812	4052	14225
Table 2:					
Total nos. of BPL households as on 2013	6451	4545	2814	3961	17771
Total nos. electrified BPL households as on 2012	5629	3442	2230	3024	14325
Total nos. of un electrified BPL households as on 2013- To be electrified	822	1103	584	937	3446

NB: - The above figures are tentative and based on 2011 Census, based on the survey data of D.D.W.S and Field Survey Conducted by Energy & Power Department in the Year September 2013.

Memo No: 2708 Gangtok, Dated: 15/11/2014

Copy with CD and to hard copies to be forwarded to Secretary (Protocol), Home Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok with request to publish the notification in the extra ordinary gazette of Sikkim and to send 100 (one hundred) copies of the same to this department.

	P.C.E cum Secretary			
Memo No: Copy forwarded to Chairman and Managing Director, REC L	Gangtok,Dated:td., Core-4, SCOPE COMPLEX, 7, Lodhi			
Road, New Delhi- For information and necessary action.				
	P.C.E cum Secretary			
Memo No:	Gangtok, Dated:			
Copy forwarded to Zonal Manager (EZ), REC, Kolkata-For	information and necessary action.			
	D.C.F. avva Saaratan			
	P.C.E cum Secretary			
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	P.C.E cum Secretary			
Memo No:	Gangtok, Dated:			
Copy forwarded to the Joint Secretary (RE), Ministry of Power Rafi Marg,New Delhi - For information and necessary action				
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